

International Salesian Family Gathers in Tampa

Fr. Dennis Donovan, SDB

Mary Help of Christians was the site of an international festival with over 600 attending on Sunday, January 31. The theme, "Sir, we want to see Jesus," was used during the Mass of Don Bosco held in the school gym. Salesian alumni from many countries participated, especially the American, Filipino, Indian, Korean, Latin American and Vietnamese groups that already call the Tampa center their home. Each group included something from their culture in the liturgy. Lunch included food items from all parts of the world. An afternoon program featured beautiful dancers in exotic gowns, the Salesian Sisters singing a hymn to Mary, a karate exposition and even the story of Joseph and Mary, depicted in dance by the Indian community, with some of the musical parts performed in a "Bollywood" style. Fr. Paul Nguyen and Linda Ruescher produced the event. Fr. Steve Ryan and the Mary Help youth group performed a brief play about the life of Don Bosco. Fr. Dennis Donovan presided at the liturgy in place of Bishop Lynch, who was recovering from surgery.

Photos by Bro. Joseph Ackroyd



Fr. Dennis Donovan presided at the liturgy.



After the Mass, 600 persons returned the Eucharist to the church in a procession with drums and other instruments.